

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 29, 2007**

At 7:35 PM, Chairwoman Butch called the meeting to order.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Alves, Mr. Blanco, Ms. Butch, Mr. Denardo, Ms. Morelli, Ms. Siedman, Mr. Wingerter

Absent: Mr. Mullarkey, Mr. Romano

Late: Mr. Abilheira (arrived 7:45 PM), Ms. Schloss (arrived 8:03 PM)

Public Comment

The public comment portion of the meeting was opened at 7:36 PM. With no public in attendance, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed at 7:36 PM.

Correspondence

Chairwoman Butch reviewed correspondence as follows:

- ***SADC Division of Premises Resolution:*** Resolution # FY08R9(29) from the SADC in response to the Mattei subdivision request was distributed for Council review.
- ***SADC Policy P-49: Placement of Septic Systems to Service Structures on Exception Areas:*** The policy was distributed to the Council for review and will be placed on the Township website.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wingerter made a motion to approve the October minutes. A second was offered by Mr. Blanco. Mr. Abilheira, Mr. Blanco, Ms. Butch, Ms. Morelli, Ms. Siedman and Mr. Wingerter voted to approve minutes. Mr. Alves, Mr. Denardo and Ms. Schloss were not in attendance at the October meeting.

Old Business

- ***Trails***
 - Industrial Park – progress has been made with the trail
 - Boss Winds/County Road crossing is waiting for County response
 - Establish which activities are/are not permitted on designated trails – discussion is being postponed
- ***Trail Grant 2008:*** The trail grant is being prepared. Ms. Butch is currently working with Lisa Spaziano from the Avakian Engineering Group on a planned trail connection and described the trail details to the Council. The trail grant will be used for marking, clearing and repairing the surface of the trail. This will be a multi-use trail for non-motorized activities such as walking, hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and horse-back riding.
- ***Baird Road/Waters 40 acres update:*** \$25K grant was received in September.
- ***Lichtman Management Agreement:*** the State still has the agreement.

- ***OSFP Bulletin for Spring***: the spring bulletin will be chaired by Ms. Schloss, who requested Council members to submit articles for the newsletter. Ms. Morelli will write an article on the Hom farm. Mr. Romano will submit an article on the racing industry.
- ***Draft of Comprehensive Farmland Plan***: the plan will be go to the Township Committee on 12/5/07 for a vote to approve plan; if the plan is approved by the Committee, it will be posted on the Township website on 12/6/07 for the public to review; it will then go to the SADC for comment; when the plan is returned from the SADC, there will be a public session for comment and input; the plan has already gone to the County for comment and is expected to be returned within one week; state, county and public comments will be taken into consideration and final changes will be made; the plan will then go first to the Planning Board and then to the Township Committee for approval and once approved will become an amendment to the Master Plan.

New Business

- ***Re-appointments/Appointments to the Council for 2008***: the Township Committee has requested that the Council submit the attendance records and names of current Council members who are interested in being re-instated; this information must be submitted by the December 19th Township Committee meeting; Ms. Butch will submit the requested information to the Committee.
- ***Calendar of Meetings for 2008***: the 2008 meeting dates were reviewed with particular attention paid to the months of November and December; the meetings for both November and December were moved to the third Thursday of the month due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays; the meeting dates have been submitted to the Township Clerk and the meeting room has been reserved for all the scheduled meeting dates for 2008.

Events

- ***Clambake***: Mr. Wingerter is working with the owners of the Clarksburg Inn to reserve either the first or second Sunday in June for the Clambake; he will follow-up and provide more information at the next Council meeting.

Committee Reports:

- ***Finance:***
 - Mr. Abilheira explained that the Waters property was purchased with money from the general fund and, to be consistent, Open Space Trust funds should not have been used to pay for expenses such as appraisals, surveys and attorney fees on this property; since the Open Space Trust did not receive any of the grant money for this purchase, the Trust should not have been used to pay for expenses associated with the purchase; Mr. Abilheira informed the Council that the project had always been a joint effort between the Township and Board of Education, and not an Open Space, project. The consensus of Council is that a letter should be written to the Township Committee requesting reimbursement of any Open Space Trust disbursements used towards the Waters project expenses along with a timely, written response from the Committee; The Secretary will compose and submit the letter to the Committee.
 - Another issue that Mr. Abilheira brought to the attention of the Council is the Lee Farm acquisition; the property was purchased using Open Space

Trust funds however, the property contains a 6 acre non-severable exception area that has been designated for active recreation; Ms. Butch informed the Council that this means that structures will be permitted on the exception area that are not ordinarily permitted on Green Acres property; possible structures include a gymnasium, indoor soccer field, an indoor swimming pool or indoor ice skating rink. Since the 6 acre exception area will not be part of the land preservation and ineligible for Open Space grant funding, the consensus of the Council is that the Open Space Trust should be reimbursed for the cost of the 6 acre exception area and any associated acquisition fees; the Council discussed it's obligation to the taxpayers and that when the Open Space Trust referendum was passed, taxpayers were voting for Open Space and preservation, not for active recreation. The Secretary will compose a letter to the Township Committee regarding reimbursement for the 6 acre parcel.

- Mr. Wingerter requested that the Secretary provide the Council with a spreadsheet containing disbursements by vendor for the Open Space Trust Account for fiscal year 2007. Mr. Abilheira informed the Council that the level of detail currently requested may not be readily available and that he will work with the CFO to produce the requested information.
- **Preservation Signage:** nothing new to report
- **Legislative Awareness:**
 - The Right to Farm legislation for equine rules has not gone anywhere since last month.
 - The Township Committee passed Resolution No. 07-215, "Resolution Supporting the Installation of Video Lottery Terminals at the Racetracks in New Jersey", at the November 7th meeting. A copy of the resolution was distributed for Council review. Ms. Butch explained that this resolution indirectly supports open space and farmland preservation.
- **Stewardship:** ROSI Amendment accepted; \$300K has been added to the Green Acres fund for the acquisition of the Lee property. A stewardship program needs to be developed for 2008.
- **Agricultural Advisory Council:** the Ag Advisory Council is hosting a "Farm Conservation Plan" seminar on Thursday, December 13th which will be presented by Nicole Ciccaglione, the District Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.
- **Fundraising Event:** Mr. Wingerter suggested that sponsoring a hunter pace event may be a good way to raise funds for Open Space. The event would take place in 2009 and would require approximately 18 months to plan. This event will be placed on the agenda for the January 24, 2008, OSFP meeting for further discussion. Invitations to the January OSFP meeting will be extended to other organizations such as the Trailblazers, Horseman's Association and Mr. Ken Thoman (of the Monmouth County Parks System trails program) to determine if there is an interest in partnering and sponsorship of the event.
- **Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications:**
 - Horzepa – application has been stalled
 - Tracy Morgan – is on hold due to a legal issue
 - Garden Center on Burnt Tavern Road has agreed to a trail on the property but the process has not yet been completed.

At 8:18 PM a Motion was made by Mr. Wingerter to move to Executive Session with a Second offered by Ms. Siedman and by unanimous vote the Council moved to Executive Session.

At 9:03 PM the Council returned to regular session and discussed attendance for the December 27th meeting. Ms. Butch requested that any council member who knew that they would not be able to attend the December meeting notify the Secretary immediately. Both Mr. Blanco and Mr. Denardo informed the Council that they would not be in attendance and Mr. Wingerter mentioned that he was unsure at this point if he would be able to attend the December meeting. Ms. Butch stated that if 5 positive responses regarding attendance were not received for the December meeting, the meeting would be cancelled. Having no further business to discuss, a Motion was made by Mr. Wingerter and with a Second offered by Ms. Siedman and by unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher